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CHILDREN OF AMERICA

By
FRANCES CAVANAH
and
BARBARA MAYNARD

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CHILDREN *of* AMERICA

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CHILDREN *of* AMERICA

IN PICTURE STRIP

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FRANCES CAVANAH

with pictures by

BARBARA MAYNARD

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Pocahontas, Indian Princess

Captain Smith of the Jamestown colony, Virginia, was to be put to death by an Indian tribe. Pocahontas, Chief Powhatan's daughter, begged that his life be spared.

So Powhatan made the gallant John Smith a member of his tribe that long-ago day in 1607, and promised that henceforth the white men and the red men should be friends.

The colonists would have starved that winter, had not Pocahontas brought them food. When some of the Indians planned an attack, she risked her life to warn them.

and Friend of the White Man

Her bravery was poorly repaid. After Captain Smith returned to England, with the help of Indian traitors she was made captive; so no Indian would dare attack the city.

In Jamestown she grew to womanhood, much loved and visited often by her people. She married John Rolfe, and now indeed were the red men and the white men friends.

In England, whence Pocahontas sailed with her husband, she again saw Captain Smith. The brave Indian princess was honored everywhere and she was received at court.

The Children of the Mayflower

Three hundred years ago a gallant band of Pilgrims sailed in the Mayflower that they might worship God in their own way. Love Brewster was among the children.

They anchored in Cape Cod in November, 1620, but the women remained on board, while the men and older boys found a site and built rude huts in the snow to shelter them.

Many died from cold and starvation during that first hard winter. Love and his brother waited on the sick, carrying food and spadefuls of fire to cold and cheerless hearths.

and the First Thanksgiving

The settlers grew better in the spring and were visited by Indians. With Chief Massasoit they made a treaty, and they smoked the pipe of peace to show they would be friends.

Of all the Indians Squanto was the one the children loved the most. He taught them many things, to fish and plant the red man's maize, and he helped their fathers set out crops.

In the autumn of 1631, the Pilgrims celebrated the first American Thanksgiving in gratitude for the large harvest. The Indians shared the feast the children helped prepare.

The Pioneer Children

One day during the French and Indian War, Mr. Kilburn, Mr. Pike, and their sons were reaping wheat, when the dog warned them of approaching Indians. They hurried home.

They had scarcely barred the door when the cabin was surrounded by 300 Indians under their leader, Captain Philip. With war whoops he called on the Kilburns to surrender.

Each man and boy stood behind a loophole in each side of the cabin. "Bang!" went their rifles. Young John Kilburn's mother and sister were kept busy loading extra guns.

Who Fought the Indians

When ammunition ran short, John's sister hung up a blanket to catch the Indian bullets falling through the roof. She melted these and made new bullets for the guns.

The Indians aimed for the loopholes, but only once did they succeed, slightly wounding Mr. Pike. Believing there were many men defending the house, they finally slunk away.

Three children rejoiced, for they had helped to drive away 300 Indians. Soon afterwards the French and Indian War came to a close, and in 1763 there was peace again.

Three Frontier Girls

To the stockade which Daniel Boone built on the Kentucky River came his wife and daughter, Jemima, in 1775. The women were always safe inside the fort.

One day Jemima and her friends, Frances and Betsey Callaway, growing careless, left the stockade to paddle across the river. They did not see the Indians hiding on the shore.

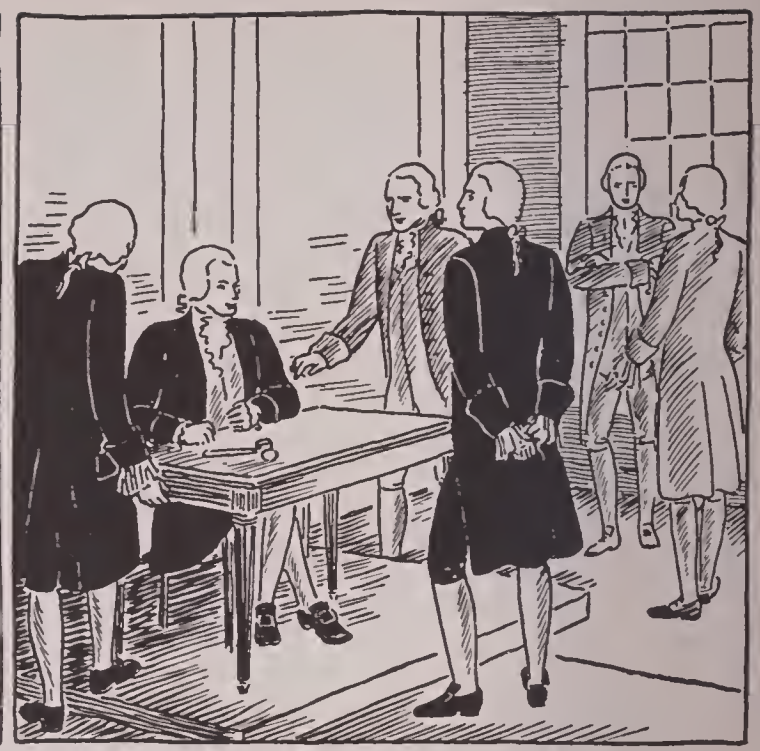
Suddenly an Indian seized the rope that hung from the bow of their canoe. The girls screamed, but no one heard them as they were dragged off into the woods.

Who Outwitted Their Captors

Through the thick canes and brush they went, but when the Indians were not watching, the girls tore off bits of their clothing and dropped twigs from the bushes on the ground.

That night their absence was discovered at the fort, and at dawn Daniel Boone and his scouts began the search. Their sharp eyes soon found the trail the girls had wisely made.

For thirty miles they pursued them before they sighted the red men's camp fire. At the sound of their guns the Indians ran away. Thus Jemima and her friends were rescued.



The Boy Who Spread Glad Tidings

"Will they dare sign?" whispered the crowds outside the State House in Philadelphia, where July Fourth, 1776, delegates had met to consider the Declaration of Independence.

Old Andrew McNair, the bell-ringer, asked his grandson to wait on the stairs and give him the signal the instant the Declaration was accepted, so that he might ring the bell.

Hours passed, while the delegates debated if they should sign the paper which would declare the colonies a nation. It was a daring move, but they were daring men.

the First Independence Day

A delegate opened the door. "Ring, Grandpa!" cried the boy, and the bell, forever to be known as the Liberty Bell, rang out the joyous news to the waiting people of Philadelphia.

The Declaration was read aloud to the happy throngs, and riders hastened to spread the tidings throughout the United States, as the colonies were thereafter to be called.

Far into the night the people celebrated, and Andrew McNair's grandson was very proud and glad. Thus July fourth came to be observed as a great nation's birthday.

The Antic Drummer Boy,

During the American Revolution, Colonel George Rogers Clark marched against the fort at Vincennes, Indiana, hoping to end the Indian attacks encouraged by the enemy.

The February thaws had come, but the courageous soldiers danced and sang around the camp fire every night. The drummer, David Ritchie, always made the others merry.

They crossed plains deep in icy water, but David sat on his drum and cried, "Steer my boat." The soldiers laughed. "Rivers can't stop us," they shouted and pressed on.

Hero of Vincennes

But they hung back when they reached a river where they must wade up to their necks in water. A day's march would bring them to Vincennes, but they were too tired to go on.

"Forward! Sing!" shouted the colonel, pretending it was all a lark. David beat the charge and led the soldiers in a rollicking song as they plowed through the icy stream.

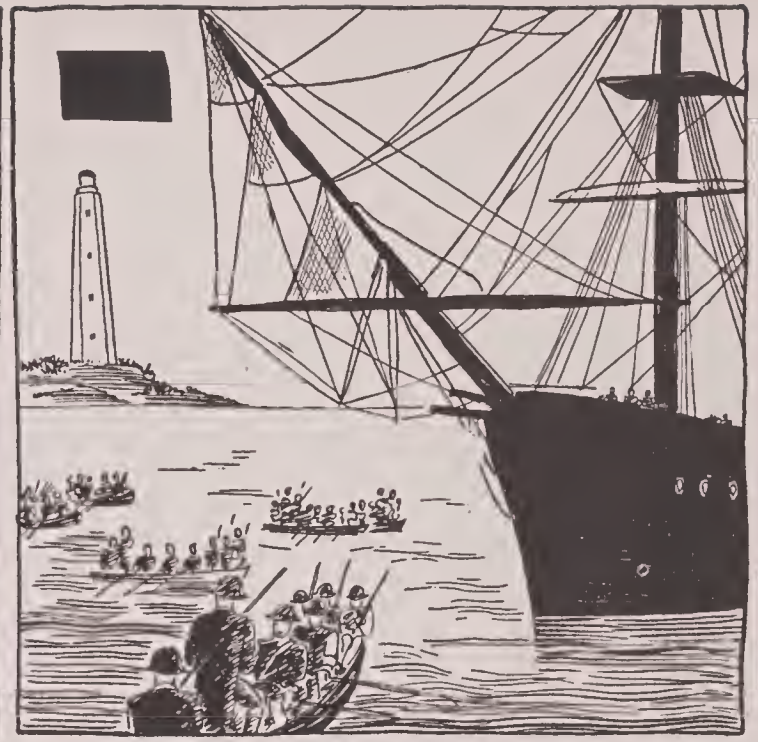
The fort, taken by surprise that winter day in 1779, surrendered. By keeping up the soldiers' courage, the little antic drummer, as Colonel Clark called David, saved Vincennes.

The Girls Who Pretended

Rebecca Bates, with her friend, Sarah Windsor, saw a British warship from the window of her father's lighthouse. "Look!" she cried. "Our American soldiers are miles away."

This was during the War of 1812, in Scituate Harbor, Massachusetts. The frightened townspeople saw the enemy soldiers rowing toward shore and setting fire to every boat.

The women fled to the woods, but the men gathered to make the best defense they could until help came from Boston. They were afraid the soldiers might burn the town.

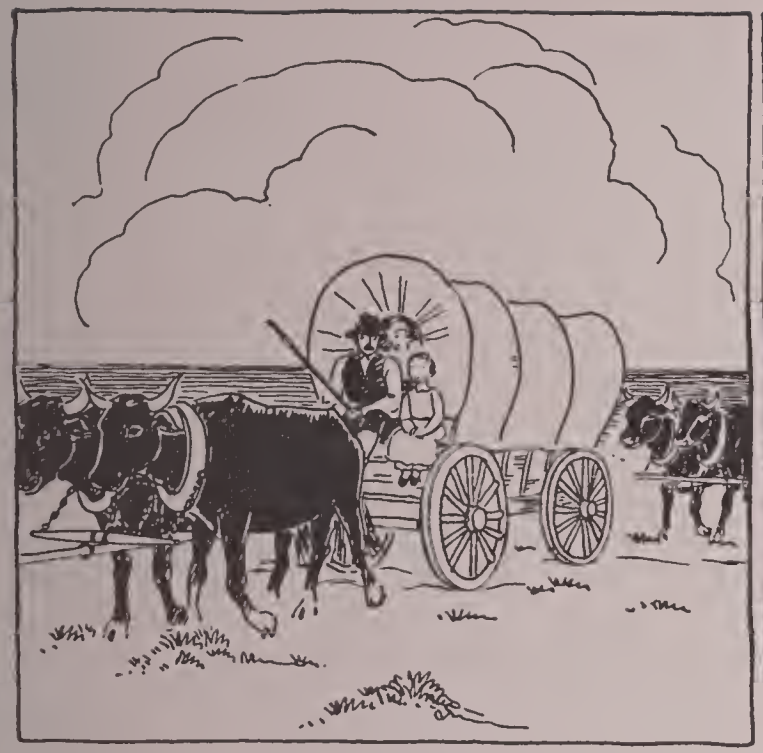


To Be an Army

"I have a plan," whispered Rebecca, taking up the village drum her father had brought home to mend. Sarah had a fife and very quietly they stole away behind the sand dunes.

Suddenly the British were startled by the sound of fife and drum. "Hark!" they exclaimed. "The American soldiers are marching from Boston. We must hurry to escape."

Little did they guess the fife and drum were played by two small girls hiding behind the dunes and making as much noise as they knew how. Rebecca and Sarah had saved the town.



The Girls Who Crossed the Plains

In 1846 covered wagons carried Eliza Donner, her family, and several neighbors, from their old homes in Illinois across the plains to make new homes in far-off California.

All went well at first but they suffered many hardships in the desert. Once while Eliza and her sister slept, the rear axle broke and they were pinned beneath the wagon.

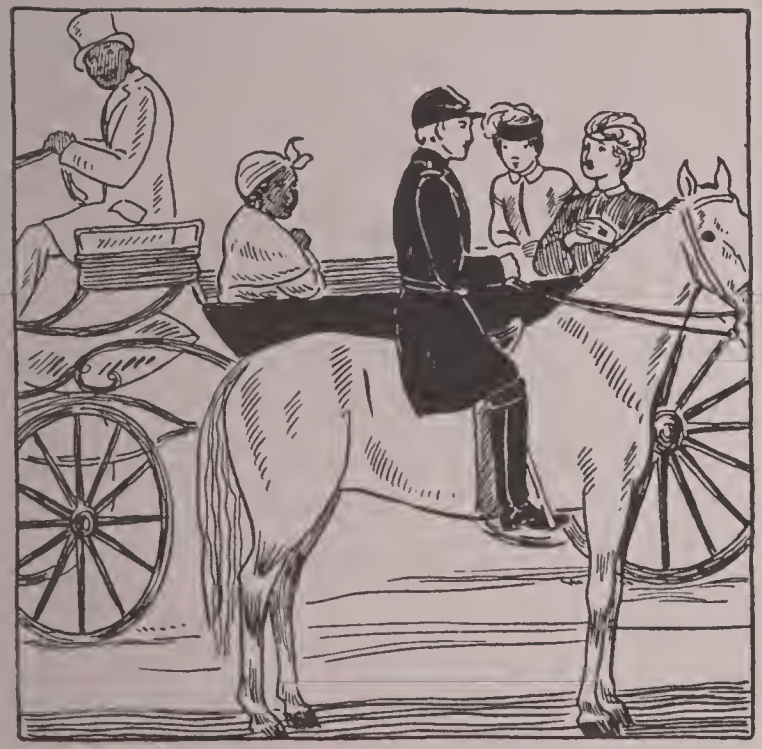
In saving them, Mr. Donner hurt his hand. This meant delay, and they were caught in a blinding snowstorm in the Sierra Mountains with only a small supply of food.

In a Covered Wagon

They passed the winter in a rude shelter, suffering much cold and hunger. Mrs. Donner refused to leave her sick husband, but she sent the girls on with a rescue party.

After many hardships the children, now orphans, reached Sutter's Fort, where gold was afterwards discovered. A kind shopkeeper, seeing they were hungry, gave them food.

His wife carried them a basket of food and adopted Eliza as her own child. Eliza grew to be an old lady in California and never tired of telling boys and girls of the early days.

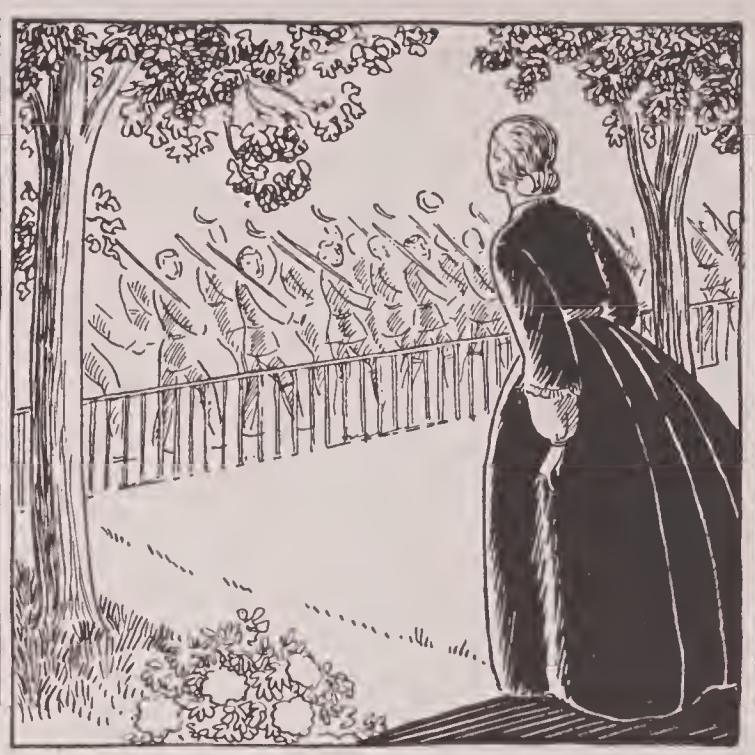


Belle Boyd, a Heroine

Belle Boyd, a brave Virginia girl, one day in 1862, tried to deliver a secret letter to General Jackson, but Federal detectives forced her to return to a town occupied by Union men.

One day she heard firing in the distance, for the Confederates were advancing. Belle had information which would save them from defeat but no one would take a message.

So she herself went, running across fields where Federal pickets, retreating before the Confederates, opened fire. Her clothes were riddled by bullets, but she was unhurt.



of the Confederacy

At last she reached General Jackson's lines. She told him what she knew of the position of the Federals, urging that his cavalry seize the bridges the enemy planned to destroy.

When Belle returned to town the Southern army was already marching through the streets, hurrying after the retreating Federals. The soldiers cheered her as they passed.

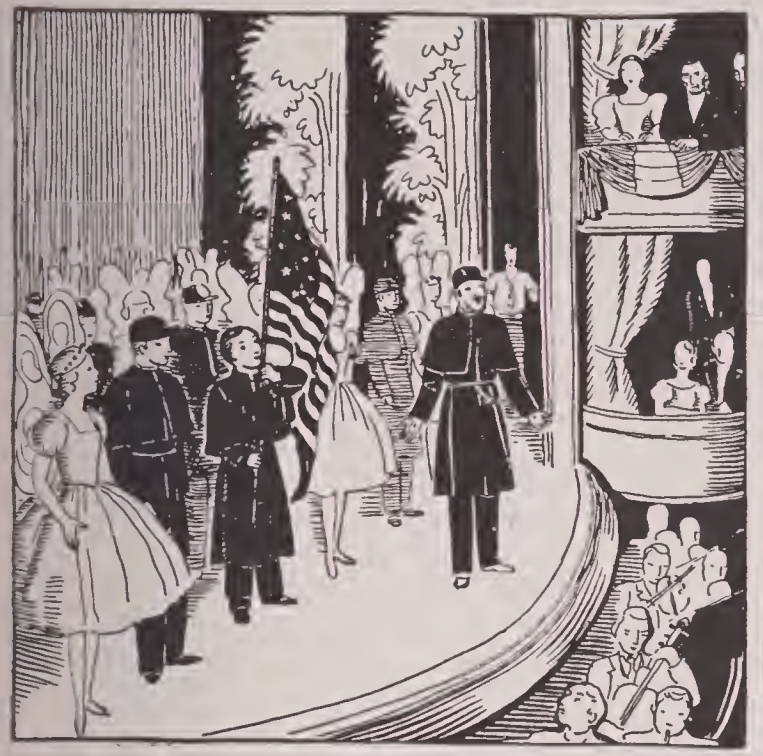
The enemy withdrew and the Confederates were saved, because of Belle's bravery. It was a proud day when she received a letter of thanks from Stonewall Jackson.

Tad, the Young Lieutenant

Everyone loved Tad Lincoln, though visitors were often shocked by his pranks. He once drove his goats, hitched tandem to a chair, through the East Room of the White House.

"Tadpole," as his father called him, was the President's constant companion and greatest comfort during the trying years of Civil War. Few days passed without a romp together.

Secretary of War Stanton made the boy a lieutenant of the United States Volunteers and gave him a regular uniform and gun. Tad drilled his recruits on the White House lawn.



and Son of a Great President

In the theater Tad was as much at home behind scenes as in his father's box. Finding a costume one evening, he joined the chorus on the stage while the audience cheered.

Just before the war closed in 1865, Tad went with his father to Richmond. "Hallelujah! Massa Linkum!" shouted the grateful Negroes, cheering the man who had freed them.

The war over, joyful throngs gathered to hear the President's last message. As he read, the sheets of the manuscript fell one by one, and Tad was there to pick them up.

The Boy Inventor

When Thomas Alva Edison was twelve years old, he became a candy butcher on a train. Every day he spent his spare hours between runs reading in the Detroit Public Library.

In leisure moments he fitted up an unused portion of the baggage car as a laboratory. Most of his earnings he spent for chemicals and apparatus and experimented nearly every day.

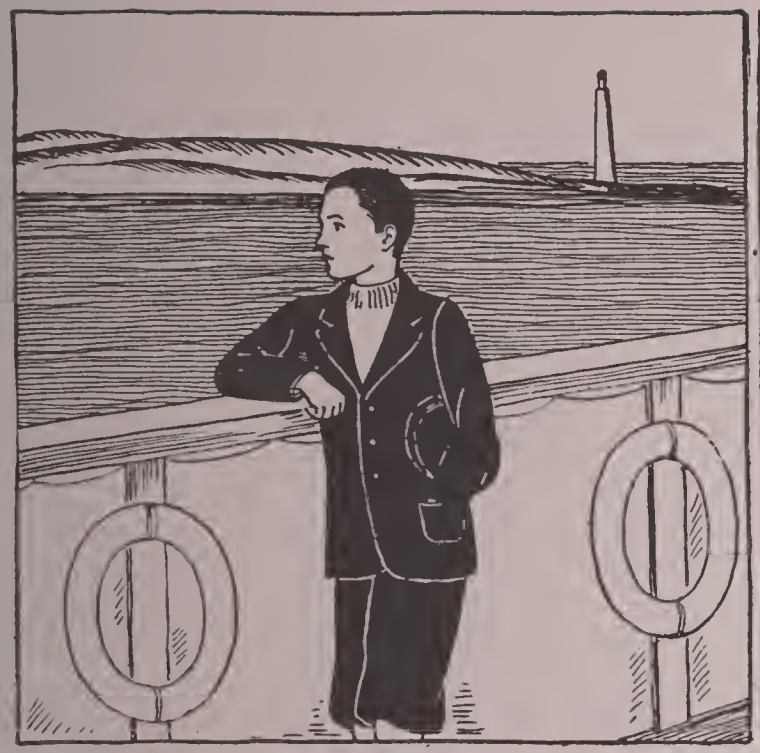
Once the car caught on fire when a bottle of phosphorus was overturned. The angry conductor extinguished the flames, but also boxed the boy's ears and put him off the train.

Now Called a Wizard

Then he set up a laboratory at home and became interested in electricity. He and a chum rigged up a telegraph line and learned to send messages. Every night they practiced.

When he rescued the little Mackenzie boy the grateful father offered to teach him telegraphy. Thus Thomas Alva Edison began his career as electrical wizard of the world.

In 1929 the nation celebrated the fiftieth year of the incandescent light. Edison pretended he was again a candy butcher, selling to the famous friends on their way to honor him.

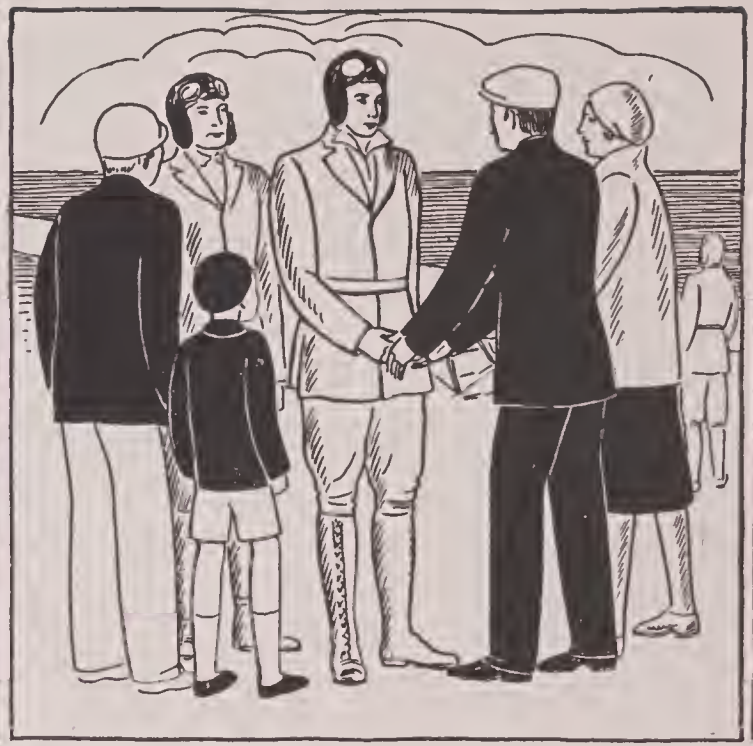


Dick Byrd, Hero

When Dick Byrd was only twelve years old he went around the world alone. Sailing westward to visit a family friend in Manila, he returned by traveling eastward.

At Annapolis he was the hero of the midshipmen. When they cheered him at a football game, he said, "There were eleven heroes on the team. I didn't make that touchdown alone."

Dick's ambition was to be a naval officer. He was disappointed later when he was retired from active duty because of an injured foot. During the World War he learned to fly.



# of Land, Sea, and Sky

Then he became America's great ace and explorer. In 1926 he and Floyd Bennett flew from the base they had established at Spitzbergen and circled the North Pole in their plane.

For twelve years Byrd had dreamed of flying the Atlantic. Fog forced his plane, the America, down off the coast of France, but a nation welcomed him for his brave attempt.

But his greatest achievement was flying over the South Pole in 1929. Here he dropped an American flag. Byrd shared the credit with his men and was honored by the world.

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